

[0001] BASE STATION FOR DISTANCE DETERMINATION

[0002] This application is a continuation application of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/274,081, filed March 22, 1999.

[0003] BACKGROUND

[0004] Field of the Invention

[0005] This invention generally relates to spread spectrum code division multiple access (CDMA) communication systems. More particularly, the present invention relates to a system and method that determines the geographic location of a subscriber unit within a CDMA communication system.

[0006] Description of the Prior Art

[0007] Wireless systems capable of locating a subscriber are presently known in the art. One wireless technique uses the global positioning system (GPS). In GPS, the communication handset receives data transmitted continuously from the 24 NAVSTAR satellites. Each satellite transmits data indicating the satellite's identity, the location of the satellite and the time the message was sent. The handset compares the time each signal was received with the time it was sent to determine the distance to each satellite. Using the determined distances between the satellites and the handset along with the location of each satellite, the handset can triangulate its location and provide the information to a communication base station. However, the incorporation of a GPS within a subscriber unit increases its cost.

[0008] Another subscriber location technique is disclosed in U.S. Patent No. 5,732,354. A mobile telephone using time division multiple access (TDMA) as the air interface is located within a plurality of base stations. The mobile telephone measures the received signal strength from each of the base stations and transmits each strength to each

respective base station. At a mobile switching center, the received signal strengths from the base stations are compared and processed. The result yields the distance between the mobile telephone and each base station. From these distances, the location of the mobile telephone is calculated.

[0009] Wireless communication systems using spread spectrum modulation techniques are increasing in popularity. In code division multiple access (CDMA) systems, data is transmitted using a wide bandwidth (spread spectrum) by modulating the data with a pseudo random chip code sequence. The advantage gained is that CDMA systems are more resistant to signal distortion and interfering frequencies in the transmission path than communication systems using the more common time division multiple access (TDMA) or frequency division multiple access (FDMA) techniques.

[0010] There exists a need for an accurate mobile subscriber unit location system that uses data already available in an existing CDMA communication system.

[0011] SUMMARY

[0012] A base station transmits a first spread spectrum signal having a first code. It receives and analyzes an impulse response of multipath components of a second spread spectrum signal having a second code to determine a first received component. The second signal is time synchronized with the first spread spectrum signal. A distance determination is made based on in part a timing difference between the second code of the received second signal and the first code of the base station's transmitted first signal and the determined first received components for that base station's received second signal.

[0013] BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING(S)

[0014] Figure 1 is an illustration of a simplified, prior art CDMA system.

[0015] Figure 2 is an illustration of a prior art CDMA system.

[0016] Figure 3 is a block diagram of major components within a prior art CDMA system.

[0017] Figure 4 is a block diagram of components within a prior art CDMA system.

[0018] Figure 5 is an illustration of a global pilot signal and an assigned pilot signal being communicated between a base station and a subscriber unit.

[0019] Figure 6 is a block diagram of a first embodiment of the present invention using at least three base stations.

[0020] Figure 7 is an illustration of locating a subscriber unit using the first embodiment of the present invention with at least three base stations.

[0021] Figure 8 is a block diagram of a second embodiment of the present invention showing components used in a subscriber unit.

[0022] Figure 9 is an illustration of locating a subscriber unit using the second embodiment of the present invention with two base stations.

[0023] Figure 10 is an illustration of locating a subscriber unit using the second embodiment of the present invention with more than two base stations.

[0024] Figure 11 is a detailed illustration of the third embodiment of the present invention having a base station with multiple antennas.

[0025] Figure 12 is an illustration of the third embodiment having a base station with multiple antennas.

[0026] Figure 13 is a block diagram of components used in the third embodiment.

[0027] Figure 14 is an illustration of multipath.

[0028] Figure 15 is a graph of a typical impulse response of multipath components.

[0029] Figure 16 is a block diagram of components within a fourth embodiment correcting for multipath.

[0030] DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT(S)

[0031] The preferred embodiments will be described with reference to the drawing figures where like numerals represent like elements throughout.

[0032] Shown in Figure 1 is a simplified CDMA communication system. A data signal with a given bandwidth is mixed with a spreading code generated by a pseudo random chip code sequence generator producing a digital spread spectrum signal. Upon reception, the data is reproduced after correlation with the same pseudo random chip code sequence used to transmit the data. Every other signal within the transmission bandwidth appears as noise to the signal being despread.

[0033] For timing synchronization with a receiver, an unmodulated pilot signal is required for every transmitter. The pilot signal allows respective receivers to synchronize with a given transmitter, allowing despreading of a traffic signal at the receiver.

[0034] In a typical CDMA system, base stations send global pilot signals to all subscriber units within their communicating range to synchronize transmissions in a forward direction. Additionally, in some CDMA systems, for example a B-CDMA™ system, each subscriber unit sends a unique assigned pilot signal to synchronize transmissions in a reverse direction.

[0035] Figure 2 illustrates a CDMA communication system 30. The communication system 30 comprises a plurality of base stations  $36_1, 36_2 \dots 36_n$ . Each base station  $36_1, 36_2 \dots 36_n$  is in wireless communication with a plurality of subscriber units  $40_1, 40_2 \dots 40_n$ , which may be fixed or mobile. Each subscriber unit  $40_1, 40_2 \dots 40_n$  communicates with either the closest base station  $36_1$  or the base station  $36_1$  which provides the strongest communication signal. Each base station  $36_1, 36_2 \dots 36_n$  is in communication with other components within the communication system 30 as shown in Figure 3.

[0036] A local exchange 32 is at the center of the communications system 30 and communicates with a plurality of network interface units (NIUs)  $34_1, 34_2 \dots 34_n$ . Each NIU is in communication with a plurality of radio carrier stations (RCS)  $38_1, 38_2 \dots 38_n$  or base

stations  $36_1, 36_2 \dots 36_n$ . Each (RCS)  $38_1, 38_2 \dots 38_n$  or base station  $36_1, 36_2 \dots 36_n$  communicates with a plurality of subscriber units  $40_1, 40_2 \dots 40_n$  within its communicating range.

[0037] Figure 4 depicts a block diagram of the pertinent parts of an existing spread spectrum CDMA communication system. Each independent base station  $36_1, 36_2 \dots 36_n$  generates a unique global pilot signal using a global pilot chip code generating means  $42_1$  and spread spectrum processing means  $44_1$ . The global pilot chip code generating means  $42_1$  generates a unique pseudo random chip code sequence. The unique pseudo random chip code sequence is used to spread the resultant signals bandwidth such as to 15 MHZ as used in the B-CDMA™ air interface. The spread spectrum processing means modulates the global pilot chip code sequence up to a desired center frequency. The global pilot signal is transmitted to all subscriber units  $40_1$  by the base station's transmitter  $46_1$ .

[0038] A receiver  $48_1$  at a subscriber unit  $40_1$  receives available signals from a plurality of base stations  $36_1, 36_2 \dots 36_n$ . As shown in Figure 5, the global pilot  $50_1$  travels from the base station  $36_1$  to the subscriber unit  $40_1$  and can be represented as:

$$\tau_l = \frac{d_l}{c} \quad \text{Equation (1)}$$

The time the signal travels from the base station  $36_1$  to the subscriber unit  $40_1$ ,  $\tau_l$ , equals the distance between the base station  $36_1$  and subscriber unit  $40_1$ ,  $d_l$ , divided by the speed of light,  $c$ .

[0039] Referring back to Figure 4, a global pilot chip code recovery means  $54_1$  within the subscriber unit  $40_1$  can receive global pilot chip code sequences from a plurality of base stations  $36_1, 36_2 \dots 36_n$ . The subscriber unit  $40_1$  generates a replica of a global pilot chip code sequence and synchronizes the generated replica's timing with the received global pilot

50<sub>1</sub>. The subscriber unit 40<sub>1</sub> also has a processor 82<sub>1</sub> to perform the many analysis functions of the subscriber unit 40<sub>1</sub>.

[0040] The subscriber unit 40<sub>1</sub> generates an assigned pilot signal 52<sub>1</sub> using assigned pilot chip code generating means 56<sub>1</sub> and spread spectrum processing means 58<sub>1</sub>. The assigned pilot chip code generating means 56<sub>1</sub> generates a pseudo random chip code sequence with its timing synchronized with the recovered global pilot chip code sequence. As a result, the assigned pilot chip code sequence is delayed by  $\tau_1$  with respect to the base station 36<sub>1</sub>, 36<sub>2</sub> ... 36<sub>n</sub>. The spread spectrum processing means 58<sub>1</sub> generates the assigned pilot signal 52<sub>1</sub> by modulating the assigned pilot chip code sequence up to a desired center frequency. The assigned pilot signal 52<sub>1</sub> is transmitted to all base stations 36<sub>1</sub>, 36<sub>2</sub> ... 36<sub>n</sub> within range to receive the assigned pilot signal 52<sub>1</sub>.

[0041] The base station 36<sub>1</sub> receives the assigned pilot signal 52<sub>1</sub> with the base station's receiver 62<sub>1</sub>. The received assigned pilot 52<sub>1</sub> travels the same distance  $d_1$  as the global pilot signal 50<sub>1</sub> as shown in Figure 5. Accordingly, the received assigned pilot signal will be delayed by  $\tau_1$  with respect to the mobile unit 40<sub>1</sub> and by  $2\tau_1$  with respect to the global pilot 50<sub>1</sub> generated at the base station 36<sub>1</sub>.

[0042] Since the chip code sequence of the assigned pilot 52<sub>1</sub> received at the base station 36<sub>1</sub> will be delayed by  $2\tau_1$  with respect to the chip code sequence of the global pilot signal 50<sub>1</sub> generated at the base station 36<sub>1</sub>, the round trip propagation delay,  $2\tau_1$ , can be determined by comparing the timing of the two chip code sequences. Using the round trip propagation delay,  $2\tau_1$ , the distance  $d_1$  between the base station 36<sub>1</sub> and subscriber unit 40<sub>1</sub> can be determined by:

$$d_1 = c \cdot \frac{2\tau_1}{2} \quad \text{Equation (2)}$$

If a spreading sequence having a chipping rate of at least 80ns is used and the communication system has the ability to track  $1/16^{\text{th}}$  of a chip, the distance  $d_i$  can be measured to within 2 meters.

[0043] Figure 6 is a block diagram of a first embodiment of the present invention. No additional hardware is required in the subscriber unit  $40_1$ . The only changes are implemented by software within the subscriber unit's processor  $82_1$  and the processors  $66_1, 66_2 \dots 66_n, 68, 70_1, 70_2 \dots 70_n$  located within the base station  $36_1$ , NIU  $34_1$  or Local Exchange  $32_1$ , Precincts  $74_1, 74_2 \dots 74_n$  and Ambulance Dispatcher  $76$ .

[0044] The subscriber unit  $40_1$  is sent a signal by a base station  $36_1$  indicating that a 911 call was initiated and to begin the subscriber location protocol. Upon receipt, the subscriber unit  $40_1$  will sequentially synchronize its transmission chip code sequence to at least three base stations' chip code sequences. To allow reception by the base stations  $36_2, 36_3 \dots 36_n$  outside of the subscriber unit's normal communicating range, these transmissions will be sent at a higher than normal power level temporarily over-riding any adaptive power control algorithms.

[0045] A processor  $66_1$  within each base station  $36_1, 36_2 \dots 36_n$  is coupled to the assigned pilot chip code recovery means  $64_1$  and the global pilot chip code generator  $42_1$ . The processor  $66_1$  compares the two chip code sequences to determine the round trip propagation delay  $\tau_1, \tau_2 \dots \tau_n$  and the respective distance  $d_1, d_2 \dots d_n$  between the subscriber unit  $40_1$  and the respective base station  $36_1, 36_2 \dots 36_n$ . Within either a NIU  $34_1$  or the local exchange  $32$ , a processor  $68$  receives the distances  $d_1, d_2 \dots d_n$  from the processors  $66_1, 66_2 \dots 66_n$  within all the base stations  $36_1, 36_2 \dots 36_n$ . The processor  $68$  uses the distances  $d_1, d_2 \dots d_n$  to determine the location of the subscriber unit  $40_1$  as follows.

[0046] By using the known longitude and latitude from three base stations  $36_1, 36_2, 36_3$  and distances  $d_1, d_2, d_3$ , the location of the subscriber unit  $40_1$  is determined. As shown in Figure 7 by using the three distances  $d_1, d_2, d_3$ , three circles  $78_1, 78_2, 78_3$  with radii  $80_1, 80_2, 80_3$  are constructed. Each circle  $78_1, 78_2, 78_3$  is centered around a respective base

station 36<sub>1</sub>, 36<sub>2</sub>, 36<sub>3</sub>. The intersection of the three circles 78<sub>1</sub>, 78<sub>2</sub>, 78<sub>3</sub> is at the location of the subscriber unit 40<sub>1</sub>.

[0047] Using the Cartesian coordinates, the longitude and latitude corresponding with each base station 36<sub>1</sub>, 36<sub>2</sub> ... 36<sub>n</sub> is represented as X<sub>n</sub>, Y<sub>n</sub>, where X<sub>n</sub> is the longitude and Y<sub>n</sub> is the latitude. If X, Y represents the location of the subscriber unit 40<sub>1</sub>, using the distance formula the following equations result:

$$(X_1 - X)^2 + (Y_1 - Y)^2 = d_1^2 \quad \text{Equation (3)}$$

$$(X_2 - X)^2 + (Y_2 - Y)^2 = d_2^2 \quad \text{Equation (4)}$$

$$(X_3 - X)^2 + (Y_3 - Y)^2 = d_3^2 \quad \text{Equation (5)}$$

[0048] In practice due to small errors in calculating the distances  $d_1$ ,  $d_2$ ,  $d_3$ , Equations 3, 4 and 5 cannot be solved using conventional algebra. To compensate for the errors, a maximum likelihood estimation is used to determine the location and are well known to those skilled in the art. For increased accuracy, additional base stations 36<sub>4</sub>, 36<sub>5</sub> ... 36<sub>n</sub> can be used to calculate additional distances for inclusion in the estimation analysis.

[0049] The subscriber unit's location is sent through the communication system 30 to at least one precinct 74<sub>1</sub>, 74<sub>2</sub> ... 74<sub>n</sub> and an ambulance dispatcher 76. A processor 70<sub>1</sub> within each precinct 74<sub>1</sub>, 74<sub>2</sub> ... 74<sub>n</sub> and the ambulance dispatcher 76 receives the location of all 911 calls originating in the system and displays the location on a conventional computer monitor 72<sub>1</sub>. The display comprises a listing of all 911 calls and addresses on a geographic map.

[0050] An alternate approach reduces the number of processors by transmitting raw data through the communication system 30 and processing the raw data at a single site.



[0051] Figure 8 is a second embodiment of a location system. At least two base stations  $36_1, 36_2 \dots 36_n$  have their internal timing synchronized with each other and transmit their respective global pilot signals  $52_1, 52_2 \dots 52_n$  with time synchronized chip code sequences. The subscriber unit  $40_1$  receives the global pilots  $52_1, 52_2 \dots 52_n$ . However, the received global pilots  $52_1, 52_2 \dots 52_n$  are not synchronized. The global pilot  $52_1$  from a first base station  $36_1$  will travel distance  $d_1$  and is delayed by  $\tau_1$ . The global pilot  $52_2$  from a second base station  $36_2$  travels distance  $d_2$  and is delayed by  $\tau_2$ . The subscriber unit  $40_1$  recovers each base station's global pilot chip code sequence with its global pilot chip code recovery means  $54_1$ . A processor  $82_1$  within the subscriber unit  $40_1$  is coupled to each global pilot chip code recovery means  $54_1, 52_2 \dots 54_n$ . The processor  $82_1$  compares the chip code sequences of each pair of pilot chip code sequences and calculates the time differences  $\Delta t_1, \Delta t_2 \dots \Delta t_n$  between the sequences as follows.

[0052] Within the subscriber unit  $40_1$ , the chip code sequences used by each base station  $36_1, 36_2 \dots 36_n$  are stored. After synchronizing with the first base station's pilot  $36_1$ , the processor  $82_1$  will store where within the sequence synchronization was obtained. This process is repeated for the other base stations  $36_2, 36_3 \dots 36_n$ . The synchronization process can be done sequentially (synchronizing to the first base station's chip code sequence then the second, etc.) or in parallel (synchronizing to all base stations at the same time).

[0053] By using the relative time difference between  $\tau_1, \tau_2, \dots \tau_n$  each base station's chip code sequence and knowing that each base station's pilot was sent at the same time, with two base stations the time differences are calculated as follows:

$$\Delta t_1 = \tau_2 - \tau_1 \quad \text{Equation (6)}$$

$$\Delta t_2 = \tau_3 - \tau_2 \quad \text{Equation (7)}$$

The time differences  $\Delta t_1, \Delta t_2 \dots \Delta t_n$  are transmitted to at least one of the base stations  $36_1$ .

[0054] At least one base station 36<sub>1</sub> recovers the time difference data from the received signals using time difference recovery means 84<sub>1</sub>. The time difference data is sent with the distance data  $d_1$  through the communications system to a processor 68. The processor 68 determines the location of the subscriber unit 40<sub>1</sub> using the time difference data  $\Delta t_1, \Delta t_2 \dots \Delta t_n$  and the distance data  $d_1, d_2 \dots d_n$  as follows.

[0055] Using information from only two base stations 36<sub>1</sub>, 36<sub>2</sub> as shown in Figure 9, the processor uses distances  $d_1, d_2$  to create two circles 78<sub>1</sub>, 78<sub>2</sub>. Using the time difference,  $\Delta t_1$ , a hyperbola 86<sub>1</sub> can be constructed as follows.

[0056] All the points along the hyperbola 86<sub>1</sub> receive the global pilot signals 52<sub>1</sub>, 52<sub>2</sub> from the synchronized base stations 36<sub>1</sub>, 36<sub>2</sub> with the same time difference,  $\Delta t_1$ . The time difference  $\Delta t_1$  can be converted to a distance difference  $\Delta d_1$  by substituting  $\Delta t_1$  for  $t_1$  and  $\Delta d_1$  for  $d_1$  in Equation 1. Using the distance formula and X, Y as the location of the subscriber unit 40<sub>1</sub>, the following equation results:

$$\Delta d_1 = \sqrt{(X_1 - X)^2 + (Y_1 - Y)^2} - \sqrt{(X_2 - X)^2 + (Y_2 - Y)^2} \quad \text{Equation (8)}$$

[0057] By using Equation 8 with Equations 3 and 4 in a maximum likelihood estimation, the location of the subscriber unit 40<sub>1</sub> can be determined. The subscriber unit's location is subsequently sent to the nearest police precinct 74<sub>1</sub>, 74<sub>2</sub> ... 74<sub>n</sub> and ambulance dispatcher 76 in the cellular area.

[0058] For improved accuracy, additional base stations 36<sub>1</sub>, 36<sub>2</sub> ... 36<sub>n</sub> are used. Figure 10 shows the invention used with three base stations 36<sub>1</sub>, 36<sub>2</sub>, 36<sub>3</sub>. The distances  $d_1, d_2, d_3$  are used to create three circles 78<sub>1</sub>, 78<sub>2</sub>, 78<sub>3</sub>. Using time differences  $\Delta t_1, \Delta t_2$ , two intersecting hyperbolas 86<sub>1</sub>, 86<sub>2</sub> are constructed. With maximum likelihood estimation, the subscriber units' location calculated with two hyperbolas 86<sub>1</sub>, 86<sub>2</sub>, and three circles 78<sub>1</sub>, 78<sub>2</sub>, 78<sub>3</sub> yields greater accuracy.

[0059] As shown in Figure 8, the subscriber unit 40<sub>1</sub> is required to process each global pilot chip code sequence to determine the time differences  $\Delta t_1, \Delta t_2 \dots \Delta t_n$ . An alternate approach removes the processing from the subscriber unit 40<sub>1</sub>.

[0060] With reference to Figure 6, the mobile unit 40<sub>1</sub> will synchronize the assigned pilot to one of the base station's global pilot chip code sequences, such as the nearest base station 36<sub>1</sub> with a delay of  $\tau_1$ . The assigned pilot 50<sub>1</sub> is transmitted to all base stations 36<sub>1</sub>, 36<sub>2</sub> ... 36<sub>n</sub>. The assigned pilot 50<sub>1</sub> will be received at each base station with a respective delay,  $\tau_1 + \tau_1, \tau_1 + \tau_2, \tau_1 + \tau_3$ . Each base station 36<sub>1</sub>, 36<sub>2</sub> ... 36<sub>n</sub> will send the delayed chip code sequence along with the calculated distance to a processor 68 located in a NIU 34<sub>1</sub> or local exchange 32. The processor 68 will calculate the time differences  $\Delta t_1, \Delta t_2 \dots \Delta t_n$  by comparing the received assigned pilot chip code sequences. Since all received assigned pilot chip code sequences are delayed by  $\tau_1$ , the  $\tau_1$  delay will cancel out of the resultant time differences  $\Delta t_1, \Delta t_2 \dots \Delta t_n$ . Accordingly, the subscriber unit 40<sub>1</sub> can be located using hyperbolas 86<sub>1</sub>, 86<sub>2</sub> as previously described.

[0061] Another embodiment shown in Figures 11, 12 and 13 uses a base station 36<sub>1</sub> with multiple antennas 88<sub>1</sub>, 88<sub>2</sub> ... 88<sub>n</sub>. Two of the antennas 88<sub>1</sub>, 88<sub>2</sub> lie along a centerline 92 at a known distance,  $l$ , apart as shown in Figure 11. Both antennas 88<sub>1</sub>, 88<sub>2</sub> receive the assigned pilot signal 90<sub>1</sub>, 90<sub>2</sub> from the subscriber unit 40<sub>1</sub>. However, the antenna 88<sub>2</sub> further away from the subscriber unit 40<sub>1</sub> receives the signal over a slightly longer distance  $d_1'$  and with a slight delay with respect to the nearer antenna 88<sub>1</sub>. This delay results in a carrier phase difference,  $\phi$ , between the signals received at each antenna as shown on Figure 13. A processor 66 using the received carrier phase difference and the chip code sequence recovered by each assigned pilot chip code recovery means 96<sub>1</sub>, 96<sub>2</sub> ... 96<sub>n</sub> can determine the location of the subscriber unit 40<sub>1</sub> as follows.

[0062] As shown in Figure 12, the subscriber unit 40<sub>1</sub> is located at distance  $d_1$  at angle  $\alpha$  from the centerline 92 of the antennas 88<sub>1</sub>, 88<sub>2</sub>. As seen at the scale of Figure 12 both received assigned pilot signals 90<sub>1</sub>, 90<sub>2</sub> appear to be coincident. However, as shown in

Figure 11, the received assigned pilot signals 90<sub>1</sub>, 90<sub>2</sub> are slightly separated. The received assigned pilot signal 90<sub>1</sub> returning to the first antenna 88<sub>1</sub> travels a distance  $d_j$ . The received assigned pilot signal 90<sub>2</sub> returning to the second antenna 88<sub>2</sub> travels a slightly longer distance  $d_j'$ . As shown in Figure 11, the difference between the two distances  $d_j$ ,  $d_j'$  is a distance  $m$ .

[0063] Since the distances  $d_j$ ,  $d_j'$  between the antennas 88<sub>1</sub>, 88<sub>2</sub> and the subscriber unit 40<sub>1</sub> are much larger than the distance  $l$  between the antennae 88<sub>1</sub>, 88<sub>2</sub> both received assigned pilot signals 90<sub>1</sub>, 90<sub>2</sub> follow approximately parallel paths. By constructing a right triangle using a point 94 which is distance  $d_j$  from the subscriber unit 40<sub>1</sub> as shown in Figure 11, the angle  $\alpha$  can be determined by the following geometric relationship:

$$\alpha = \text{COS}^{-1} (m/l). \quad \text{Equation (9)}$$

[0064] The distance  $m$  can be determined by using the carrier phase difference,  $\phi$ , between the two received signals 90<sub>1</sub>, 90<sub>2</sub> as follows:

$$m = \frac{\phi \cdot \lambda}{2\pi} \quad \text{Equation (10)}$$

The distance  $m$  equals the phase difference between the two signals,  $\phi$ , in radians multiplied by the wavelength of the signal,  $\lambda$ , divided by  $2\pi$ . The wavelength,  $\lambda$ , can be derived from the known frequency  $f$  of the assigned pilot signal as follows:

$$\lambda = c/f. \quad \text{Equation (11)}$$

[0065] The processor 68 also compares the chip code sequences of the global pilot generating means 42<sub>1</sub> with the recovered assigned pilot chip code sequence to determine the distance  $d_j$  as shown in Figure 6. Using both the angle  $\alpha$  and distance  $d_j$ , the processor 66<sub>1</sub>

locates the subscriber unit  $40_1$  using simple geometry. There are many techniques well known to those skilled in the art to eliminate the ambiguity between locations above and below the antennas  $88_1, 88_2$ . One such technique is using antennas employing sectorization. Subsequently, the subscriber unit's location is sent to the precincts  $74_1, 74_2 \dots 74_n$  and ambulance dispatcher 76. Additional antennas may be used to improve on the accuracy of the system.

[0066] An alternate embodiment uses more than one base station  $36_1, 36_2 \dots 36_n$ . A processor 68 located within either a NIU  $34_1$  or the local exchange 32 collects distance and angle information from more than one base station  $36_1, 36_2 \dots 36_n$  as well as the time differences  $\Delta t_1, \Delta t_2 \dots \Delta t_n$ , between the base stations  $36_1, 36_2 \dots 36_n$ . Using the maximum likelihood estimation technique, the processor 68 determines a more accurate location of the subscriber unit  $40_1$ .

[0067] A fourth embodiment corrects for multipath. Figure 14 illustrates multipath. A signal such as a global pilot signal is transmitted from a base station  $36_1$ . The signal follows a multitude of paths  $98_1, 98_2 \dots 98_n$  between the base station  $36_1$  and subscriber unit  $40_1$ .

[0068] Figure 13 is a graph showing the impulse response 136 of the received multipath components. Since each received multipath component travels a unique path, it arrives at a receiver with a propagation delay determined by the length of the path  $98_1, 98_2 \dots 98_n$ . The impulse response 106 shows the collective signal magnitude of all the multipath components received at each propagation delay.

[0069] The previously described subscriber unit location techniques assumed the subscriber unit  $40_1$  synchronizes with the line of sight multipath component  $98_1$  traveling distance  $d_1$ . However, if the subscriber unit synchronizes with a non-line of sight multipath component  $98_1, 98_2 \dots 98_n$ , the distance calculation will be in error due to the delay  $MD_1$  as shown in Figure 15.

[0070] Figure 16 is a system correcting for errors resulting from multipath. The global pilot  $50_1$  is sent from the base station  $36_1$  to subscriber unit  $40_1$ . The subscriber unit  $40_1$  collects all of the multipath components using a multipath receiver  $102_1$  such as disclosed in U.S. Patent Application No. 08/669,769, Lomp et al., incorporated here by reference. A processor  $82_1$  within the subscriber unit  $40_1$  analyzes the impulse response  $100$  of the received global pilot signal  $50_1$ .

[0071] Since the line of sight multipath component  $98_1$  travels the shortest distance  $d_1$ , the first received component  $98_1$  is the line of sight component. If the line of sight component is not received, the first received component  $98_1$  will be the closest and, accordingly, the best available estimate for the line of sight component. The processor  $82_1$  compares the chip code sequence of the first received component  $98_1$  with the chip code sequence used to synchronize the assigned pilot chip code sequence. This comparison determines the delay due to multipath,  $MD_1$ . The multipath delay,  $MD_1$ , is transmitted to the base station  $36_1$ .

[0072] A processor  $66_1$  and multipath receiver  $104_1$  within the base station  $36_1$  perform the same analysis on the received assigned pilot signal. As a result, the multipath delay,  $MD_2$ , of the assigned pilot signal is determined. Additionally, multipath delay recovery means  $106_1$  recovers the transmitted global pilot signal's multipath delay  $MD_1$  for use by the processor  $66_1$ . The processor  $66_1$  compares the generated global pilot chip code sequence to the recovered assigned pilot chip code sequence to determine the round trip propagation delay  $2\tau_1$ . To correct for multipath, the processor  $66_1$  subtracts both the global pilot signal's multipath delay  $MD_1$  and the assigned pilot signals multipath delay  $MD_2$  from the calculated round trip propagation delay,  $2\tau_1$ . The corrected round trip propagation delay is used to determine the subscriber unit's location in one of the techniques as previously described.

[0073] Although the invention has been described in part by making detailed reference to certain specific embodiments, such detail is intended to be instructive rather

than restrictive. It will be appreciated by those skilled in the art that many variations may be made in the structure and mode of operation without departing from the scope of the invention as disclosed in the teachings herein.

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